



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

February 28, 1964

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

SECRET

The following information was furnished on February 26 and 27, 1964, to representatives of the FBI by Yuri Ivanovich Nosenko, Soviet defector, whose reliability has not as yet been established. (u)

Nosenko said he was Deputy Chief of the Tourist Department, Second Chief Directorate of the Committee for State Security (KGB) at the time of his defection February 4, 1964, at Geneva, Switzerland, and held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He said the Second Directorate of the KGB is concerned with the internal security of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). (u)

Nosenko advised he was familiar with the visit of Lee Harvey Oswald to the Soviet Union in the Fall of 1959 and supervised the handling of the KGB file on Oswald in the Tourist Department. (u)

Nosenko stated that when Oswald arrived as a tourist in the Soviet Union the KGB had no current interest in him and possessed no information that Oswald was a member of the Communist Party, USA, elsewhere, or that he was a member of any pro-Soviet organization. Nosenko advised that upon arrival in Moscow Oswald contacted Intourist, the official Soviet travel agency. Oswald informed representatives of the Intourist that he desired to remain in the Soviet Union. Thereafter, Oswald's case was referred to the Seventh (Tourist) Department, Second Main Directorate, KGB. (u)

Nosenko related Oswald was discouraged from remaining permanently in Russia. It was suggested to him that he complete his visit as a tourist and return to the United States. It was further suggested he could thereafter make application through routine channels at the Soviet Embassy in the U. S. for admission as an immigrant to the Soviet Union. (u)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Classification
DATE 8/20/88

SECRET

Classified by 2042 JH/N
Exempt from GDS Category 2A3
Date of Declassification Indefinite

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Kosenko said Oswald was not regarded by the KGB as being completely normal mentally nor was he considered to be very intelligent. He stated it was the desire of the KGB that Oswald depart from Russia as early as convenient but no effort was made to curtail his visit or to inconvenience him during his stay in Russia. Kosenko stated, however, that Oswald was pointedly informed he could not remain in Russia permanently. Later Oswald was scheduled to take a tour of Moscow but before the tour began he was again notified he could not remain in the Soviet Union. When he failed to appear for this tour a search was instituted for him and according to Kosenko inquiry was made at the Berlin Hotel in Moscow where Oswald was a guest. This inquiry disclosed Oswald had locked himself in his room and when entry was made to his room Oswald was found bleeding from self-inflicted wounds to his wrists. Kosenko stated Oswald was rushed to a hospital and Kosenko expressed the opinion that if Oswald had not received immediate medical assistance he would have died. (u)

Kosenko stated that upon Oswald's release from the hospital Oswald was again informed he could not remain in the Soviet Union, whereupon Oswald declared if this were true he would commit suicide. Kosenko said that at this point the Second Directorate of the KGB "washed its hands of Oswald". (u)

Kosenko advised that Oswald was, nevertheless, permitted to remain temporarily in Russia and it is Kosenko's opinion this was accomplished through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Soviet Red Cross. Kosenko said Oswald was not granted Soviet citizenship nor was this ever considered. He said Oswald was thereafter sent to Minsk in Byelorussia, northwest of Moscow where he was given a small apartment and a minor position in a plant, believed by Kosenko to be engaged in the manufacture of radio receivers. Kosenko said Oswald received a small salary and this was supplemented by funds provided by the Soviet Red Cross. (u)

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Nosenko said the KGB file on Oswald was then transferred to the regional office of the KGB at Minsk and that office was instructed to maintain a discreet check on the activities of Oswald. Nosenko commented that the possibility that Oswald might be a "sleeper agent" for American intelligence had been considered by the KGB but at this time the interest of KGB headquarters in Oswald was practically nil. *WU*

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Nosenko said no further word was received at the KGB headquarters concerning Oswald until he appeared at the Soviet Embassy, Mexico City, Mexico, and sought to return to the Soviet Union. He stated the headquarters of the First Chief Directorate (Foreign Intelligence) at Moscow was advised of Oswald's interest in returning to Russia. It was subsequently ascertained that Oswald had been of interest previously to the Second Directorate and the Second Directorate promptly informed the First Directorate that Oswald was of no interest to the Second Directorate. The Second Directorate said it wanted nothing to do with Oswald and it recommended to the First Directorate that Oswald not be granted permission to return to the Soviet Union. *WU*

Nosenko related he next heard about Oswald approximately two hours after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy when Nosenko was summoned to the KGB center in Moscow and queried concerning his knowledge of Oswald. Nosenko said that since no file on Oswald could be located at the center he was instructed by General Oleg N. Gribanov, Head of the Second Directorate, to telephone the KGB office at Minsk and obtain a dictated summary of information concerning Oswald. Nosenko said he contacted the KGB office at Minsk and obtained a summary wherein there appeared a phrase that the KGB at Minsk had endeavored "to influence Oswald in the right direction". General Gribanov was greatly concerned about this phrase inasmuch as the KGB in Minsk had been instructed to take no action concerning Oswald. General Gribanov ordered all records at Minsk pertaining to Oswald be forwarded by war-plane to Moscow with an explanation concerning attempts "to influence Oswald in the right direction". *WU*

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Nosenko advised the KGB at Minsk reported no official action had been taken to direct Oswald and explained that an uncle of Marina Oswald, wife of Lee Harvey Oswald, who was a lieutenant colonel in the local militia at Minsk, had voluntarily approached Oswald and suggested Oswald not be too critical of the Soviet Union when he returned to the United States. Nosenko commented that when the KGB at Minsk was first requested to furnish a summary of the Oswald file it was unaware of the international significance of Oswald's activities and had included the statement reporting their endeavors to influence Oswald as a self-serving effort to impress the KGB center. (u)

He also advised that the Oswald affair was a source of great concern to the KGB center and a large staff of KGB employees was called into service and records were reviewed in great detail to make certain the KGB had not utilized Oswald as an agent. (u)

With respect to Marina Oswald, Nosenko advised that she was not employed as an agent of the KGB. He said she had been a member of the Komsomol (Communist Party Youth Organization) but had been dropped from the rolls on an unknown date for non-payment of dues over a long period of time. Nosenko stated Marina Oswald was not regarded by the KGB as a very intelligent person. Marina was permitted to depart Russia with her husband, but Nosenko said this was of no significance since there was no objection from the KGB. (u)

Nosenko advised that since the death of Stalin it is possible under the law for a Russian wife of a foreign national to leave the USSR with her husband, although in practice this may be prevented as a matter of policy. (u)

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